

Commercial and Industrial Grant Program

Notice of Grant Availability

Program Description: Grants for Commercial and Industrial facilities to implement and showcase ambitious upgrades that reduce total annual electric consumption by 15% or more.

Application Deadline: Applications will be accepted on a first come/first served basis through February 28, 2017, or until funding has been expended.

Eligible Entities: Any commercial, industrial, or non-profit enterprise located in the State of Maryland with the exception of buildings owned by government entities.

Program Budget: Up to \$2.25 million in fiscal year 2017.

Grant Award Amount: \$20,000 to \$500,000 per business owner or parent company, limited to a single award per grant cycle. Grants are designed to cover up to 50% of project costs after other incentives and grants have been received. The merit and volume of applications may affect the size of the grant award offered by MEA.

Qualifications: To be considered for an award, a proposed project shall meet the following qualifications:

- Entities shall be commercial, industrial, or non-profit.
- Projects shall improve existing buildings in the State of Maryland.
- Projects shall save 15% or more of the annual electricity usage for a whole building or treated space within a building.
- Projects must cost at least \$40,000.
- Projects shall be comprised of at least two energy efficient measures, which may include but are not limited to:
 - Building insulation and envelope improvements
 - Lighting
 - Controls
 - Motors and variable frequency drives (VFDs)
 - Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) upgrades
 - Refrigeration
 - Retro- or re-commissioning
 - Energy data analytics
- Projects can be completed and operational before May 1, 2018.
- Applicants must be willing to showcase successful projects through a variety of channels.

Evaluation Criteria: MEA selects applications that will allow for a diversity of projects representing a broad range of building and industry types, energy conservation measures, and Maryland's geographic regions. Each application will also be reviewed using the following metrics:

- Diversity of electricity savings. *Preference will be given to projects with a well-rounded portfolio of savings from a diverse selection of energy measures. An ideal application will derive no more than 70% of the total project cost from a single measure.*
- Percentage of leveraged funds.
- Demonstration of energy efficiency best practices or innovative technology.
- Project feasibility. *Successful applicants will include a bid demonstrating that the project can be completed by May 1, 2018.*
- Cost-effectiveness in combination with energy savings. *Projects should have a simple payback period less than the average useful life of installed measures. MEA may evaluate cost-effectiveness per measure and in aggregate.*
- Completeness, accuracy, and reasonableness of energy savings and cost estimates. *All cost estimates and electricity savings projections are subject to review and approval by MEA.*

Restrictions and Limitations:

- To receive a grant for a project, an applicant must enter into a Grant Agreement with MEA not later than May 1, 2017.
- Any project on which construction commences prior to the effective date of the Grant Agreement will be ineligible for grant funding. Construction includes purchasing, ordering, or installing equipment.
- Prior to the execution of a Grant Agreement, selected projects must be reviewed by the Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) to ensure that no historical property will be adversely impacted.
- Projects that reduce electricity use solely by switching to another fuel source are not eligible for funding.
- MEA must be allowed access to the building to conduct a compliance audit, perform an energy audit, verify installation, and measure savings.
- Payment of a grant is contingent upon inspection of the completed project and compliance with all program requirements and General Conditions of the Grant Agreement.
- Businesses must be in good standing in the State of Maryland. For Certificate of Status information please see the [Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation](#) webpage.
- The business owner or an authorized signatory for the parent company must sign the application and is responsible for submitting all program invoices and reporting.

For more information including grant design and program requirements, eligibility evaluation criteria, and instructions on submitting a complete application, please refer to the **Frequently Asked Questions** or contact MEA at ci.mea@maryland.gov.